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ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PM-07 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 IGA-11 /067 W
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R 192025Z AUG 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4372
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
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E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DOGFIGHT OVER MEMORY OF MARCUS GARVEY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY
RD ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
D. CLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
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PA or FOI EXCEPTIONS
DATE 25 JUN 1982

1. SUMMARY. THE 93RD FIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF JAMAICAN NATIONAL HERO MARCUS GARVEY HAS BEEN SEIZED UPON BY BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO CLAIM HIS MANTLE FOR THEIR PROGRAMS INNWHE PRESENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 1980, MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY WOULD HAVE BEEN 93 YEARS OLD. ONE WONDERS HOW HE WOULD HAVE VIEWED THE UTTERLY PARTISAN SPIRIT WHICH IMBUED COMMEMORATIVE RALLIES HELD IN JAMAICA TO HONOR HIS PHILOSOPHY AND MOMORY. WHILE HE WAS BEING SALUTED IN THE OAS FOR HIS EFFORTS TO RAISE THE DIGNITY AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE BLACK POPULATION OF THE WORLD, TAKING HIS PLACE AS THE FIRST NDIVIDULA FORM THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBEAN IN THAT ORGANIZATION'S HALL OF HEROES (DEPUTY PRIMIN P.J. PATTERSON UNVEILED THE BUST), THE LEADERS OF THE JLP AND PNP FOUGHT VIGOROUSLY TO CLAIM

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HIM AS THIER OWN PHILOSOPHICAL FATHER, AND ONLY THEIRS.

3. ADVERTISING FOR RULING PNP'S AUGUST 17 RALLY, HELD IN MANCHESTER, PARISH, LINKED THE PNP'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN LAND REFORM, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, A NATIONAL MINUMUM WAGE AND FREE EDUCATION WITH THE GOALS FOUGHT FOR BY GARVEY, IMPLICITLY CLAIMING THAT THEYWERE THE LOGICAL HEIRS TO THE GARVEY VISION. IN HIS SPEECH, PRIMIN MANLEY CHARGED THE JLP WITH THE "GREATEST INTELLECTUAL CRIME IN THE POLITICAL HISTRY OF JAMAICA" FOR "CLAIMING" THE LATE MARCUS GARVEY, AND "PRAYED THAT GOD MAY FORGIE THEM, FOR I CANNOT" FOR THIS HEINOUS ACTION. HE SIAD THAT "HIGH UPS OF 1929, LED BY THE DAILY GLEANER, HAD TRIED TO DESTROY GARVEY BECAUSE HE WAS FIGHTING FOR THE LITTLE MAN." IN THE SAME WAY, MANLEY SAID THE GLEANER (AND BY IMPLICATION THE JLP) WAS TRYING TO DESTROY HIM AND HIS PARTY.

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4. THE OPPOSITION ADS CALLED ALL TO OME TO "AN EVENING OF CULTURE" TC CELEBRATF GARVEY'S BIRTHDAY AT HIS BIRTHPLACE IN ST. ANN'S PARISH. IN HIS ADDRESS, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION EDWARD SEAGA STATED THAT HE, AS MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT IN 1964, NEGOTIATED THE RETURN OF GARVEY'S REMAINS TO JAMIACA AND SUGGESTED THAT HE BE NAMED A "NATIONAL HERO, A DISTINCTION NEVER BEFORE ACCORIED ANYONE IN JAMAICA'S HISTORY." TURNING TO GARVEY'S PHILOSOPHY IN A BID TO CLAIM THE INHERITANCE, SEAGA SAID THAT THE LATE NATIONAL HERO PREACHED AGAINST COMMUNISM AND TOLDPEOPLF THAT THE WAY TO PROSPER WAS THROUGH INDUSTRY AND FREEDOM--A DOCTRINE NOT FOUND IN ANY BOOKS ON COMMUNISM. HE PORTRAYED GARVEY AS AMAN "WHC SOUGHT TO UPLIFT A WHOLE RACE, NOT BY DRAGGING EVERYONE DOWN, BUT BY PULLING UP THE DOWN-TRODDEN."
5. BOTH PARTY LEADERS USED THEIR SPEECHES ON GARVEY TO

TAKE SWIPE AT JAMAICAN PULBIC ORGANIZATIONS PERCEIVED TO BE LESS THAN FAIR IN THEIR ACTIVITIES. THEPNP TARGET WAS THE SECURITY FORCES, PRESUMABLY EECAUE TNEY HAVE RECENTLY DISCOVERED MORE ILLICIT GUNS AND AMMUNITION IN SEARCHES OF PNP OFFICES THAN IN JLP OFFICES. MANLEY SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT THERE WAS A MINORITY WHICH WAS CORRUPTING SOME MEMBERS OF THE FORCES. HE WARNED THE UNSPECIFIED MINORITY THAT AFTER THE ELECTIONS "IT IS STILL WE WHO THEY WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH." HE CALLEDON THE SECURITY FORCES TO BE HONEST AND DISCIPLINED, AND PROMISED HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT FORM THEM. A FULLER STATEMENT WAS MADE BY PARTY SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN, WHO SAID THAT THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD MONITOR THE SECURITY FORCES' ACTIONS. DUNCAN REPEATED AN EARLIER PNP CALL FOR SEPARATING JAMAICA FORM THE COMMONWEALTH AND HAVING A PRESIDENT.
6. MUCH OF SEAGA'S SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO THE JAMAICA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (JBC). HE SAID HE "DEEPLY REGRETTED HAVING PLAYED ANY PART IN TURNING ON THAT TELEVISION TUBE, SO THAT JBC COULD VIOLATE ALL ETHICS, ALL PRINCIPLES OF BROADCASTING BEFORE JAMAICANS." REFERRING TO A "PLAN" HE HAD MENTIONED EARLIER, HE STATED THAT THE JLP HAD FILED A COURT ACTION ON AUGUST 5 CITING FIVE VIOLATIONS OF REGULATIONS UNDER THE BROADCASTING LAW BY THE JBC AND PERSONS WORKING THER, "THOSE WHO READ THE NEWS, AND THOSE WHO MAKE IT UP." HE ACCUSED THE CORPORATION OF PREJUDICING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS BY PROPAGANDIZING NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.
7. COMMENT: IN HER COLUMN IN THE GLEANER, ERICA GREER DECRIED THE "TEMERITY OF THE PNP AND THE JLP (FOR USING GARVEY) AS POLITICAL FOOTBALL TO BE KICKED ACROSS THE ELECTION FIELD AS THEY TRY DESPERATELY TO SCORE A PLITICAL GOAL." AND LAST WEEK THE DAILY NEWS

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POLITICAL CARTOONIST PORTRAYED MANLEY AND SEAGA
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FIENDISHLY CLAWING THEIR WAY UP AN AUGUST STATUE
OF THE NATIONAL HERO. MOST JAMAICANS WOULD AGREE THAT
GARVEY'S MEMORY IS BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.
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